

General of the Army Omar N. Bradley Memorial Lecture

Perspectives in Military History

49th Annual Lecture Series

“Becoming Sparta: Bridging the Divide and Forging Bonds Between Americans and Those Who Fight for Them”

Ms. Kimberly Dozier

Author, Daily Beast Contributing Writer

Former Omar N. Bradley Chair in Strategic Leadership

Writer Kimberly Dozier noticed a serious disconnect between Soldiers returning home from the front lines and the civilians receiving them. She saw people distance themselves from Soldiers with the generic phrase “thank *you* for *your* service,” and could not ignore the increased labeling of servicemen and women as “walking PTSD time bombs.” Though she is a civilian, Dozier identifies with this issue more than most noncombatants: as a CBS News correspondent in 2006, a vehicle on location in Iraq hit an IED while carrying Dozier, her reporting team, and her interviewee, U.S. Army officer Captain James Funkhouser. Her CBS colleagues and Capt. Funkhouser were killed, while Dozier was seriously wounded. Dozier used her recovery process to educate the public about Soldiers’ resiliency post-trauma in her 2011 memoir *Breathing Fire: Fighting to Survive and Get Back to the Fight*. Dozier offers perspective on recovery for military personnel, many of whom helped her heal while facing their own struggles.

Ms. Dozier will focus this lecture on her current research on resilience and special operations forces, addressing the gap among Soldiers and the public. She hopes to help Americans move past the narrow view of active duty Soldiers and veterans as “broken,” and motivate troops to share their experiences of trauma with those close to them. Dozier will also discuss her endeavor to reconcile two contrasting post-traumatic stress narratives; one argues Americans are not yet prepared to acknowledge or heal the extent of the damage Soldiers undergo in war, and the other contends Soldiers are empowered by the labor of recovery through the strength and wisdom the process can provide. Dozier plans to include these thoughts in an upcoming book of anonymous stories of officers, counselors, NCOs, and family members, each coping with war, from the post-9/11 conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq to more recent action in the Horn of Africa. Work on the book was part of Dozier’s 2014-2015 role as the Omar N. Bradley Chair in Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College.

While serving as the Bradley chair, Dozier taught at Dickinson College, Penn State’s Dickinson School of Law and International Affairs, and the U.S. Army War College, in addition to her book research. The chair provides visiting scholars the opportunity to foster civil-military relations via the study of leadership, and how it can best be exercised in a globalized, technological world. Prior to this position, Dozier spent four years with the Associated Press and 17 years with CBS News reporting on intelligence and security in the U.S. and overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israeli-Palestinian territories, Kosovo, China, and Northern Ireland. She has received many awards for her work, including the first Tex McCrary Award presented to a woman on behalf of the National Medal of Honor Society. Currently, Ms. Dozier is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a contributing writer for the Daily Beast on counter-terrorism and special operations, and an on-air analyst for CNN.

DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2015

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For updates and any last-minute changes in “Perspectives” meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: (717) 245-3972